

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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R 050930Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 214

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PK, AF

SUBJECT: BHUTTO TOURS PUNJAB - TALKS ABOUT OPPOSITION AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

REF: A) ISLAMABAD 9982; B) MOSCOW 15790;

C) ISLAMABAD 10211; D) MOSCOW 16520

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO BEGAN LONG-AWAITED
TOUR OF PUNJAB NOV 2. IN FIRST MAJOR SPEECH AT
BAHAWALNAGAR NOV 4, HE SPENT MOST OF TIME CASTIGATING
OPPOSITION NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP) AND DISCLOSED HE
HAD URGED SOVIET LEADERS DURING RECENT MOSCOW VISIT TO
ASK AFGHANISTAN NOT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS
OF PAKISTAN. HE RAN DOWN STANDARD LIST OF COMPLAINTS
AGAINST NAP AND KABUL, CLAIMED GOP HAD MANAGED TO CULTIVATE
FRIENDSHIP SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THREE GREAT POWERS,

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REITERATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO IMPROVE RELATIONS

WITH INDIA UNDER TERMS OF SIMLA AGREEMENT, AND WONDERED WHY BANGLADESH INDEPENDENCE HAD NOT BROUGHT PROSPERITY. NAP AND OTHER MEMBERS OF OPPOSITION UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT (UDF), MEETING IN NEARBY MULTAN, ISSUED SERIES OF RELATIVELY MILD REJOINDERS TO BHUTTO, BUT WERE HAMPERED BY BAN ON MEETINGS AND BY GOP BLACKOUT OF OPPOSITION NEWS IN LOCAL PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO ARRIVED IN LAHORE NOV 2 TO BEGIN HIS LONG-AWAITED "GRAND TOUR" OF PUNJAB PROVINCE. HE SPENT FIRST 48 HOURS IN CITY QUIETLY WORKING ON GOVERNMENT AND PARTY BUSINESS, EXCEPT FOR HEAVILY-PUBLICIZED AUDIENCE WITH AMA JEN-NUI, LEADER OF CHINESE CIVIL AIR DELEGATION NOW IN COUNTRY. EARLY MORNING NOV 4, HE MOVED TO BAHAWALNAGAR AND SPOKE TO LARGE PUBLIC MEETING. PART OF 65-MINUTE SPEECH ADDRESSED DOMESTIC ECONOMIC MATTERS, BUT HEAVY EMPHASIS WAS UPON PAKISTAN'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

2. LOCAL PRESS NOV 5 FRONT-PAGED BHUTTO'S DISCLOSURE DURING BAHAWALNAGAR SPEECH THAT WHILE IN MOSCOW HE HAD URGED SOVIET LEADERS TO ASK AFGHANISTAN NOT TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PAKISTAN. HE SAID HE TOLD SOVIETS THAT GOA AND NAP WERE IN COLLUSION WITH EACH OTHER IN EFFORT TO DESTROY PAKISTAN. HE WENT ON TO CASTIGATE KABUL IN USUAL TERMS, MAINTAINING THAT AFGHANISTAN HAD ULTERIOR MOTIVES AGAINST PAKISTAN AND WANTED TO "GRAB HALF OF OUR COUNTRY." HE ALSO LASHED OUT AT NAP AND WALI KHAN, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION LATTER BY NAME, AND WANTED THEM THEY COULD NOT EXPLOIT PAKISTAN'S STRAINED RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION BECAUSE THOSE RELATIONS "HAD IMPROVED A LOT." HE QUICKLY ADDED THAT PAKISTAN HAD FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND "CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH US, AND MAINTAINED THAT NO OTHER POWER WOULD BE ALLOWED TO HARM THOSE RELATIONS.

3. TURNING TO INO-PAK RELATIONS, BHUTTO REPORTEDLY REITERATED THAT SIMLA AGREEMENT WAS BASIS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO NATIONS. HE SAID, "AS THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER TOLD DR. KISSINGER," RELATIONS BETWEEN ANY TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATES RISE AND FALL; THUS IT WAS IN PAKISTAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA, WHICH "TOOK MANY FORMS." HOWEVER, IN ANOTHER BLAST AT NAP, BHUTTO TOLD AUDIENCE THAT OFFICIAL AFGHANISTAN AND INDIAN RADIOS CONTINUED TO PORTRAY NAP LEADERS AS "HEROES AND LIBERATORS," AND ASKED CROWD TO DRAW ITS OWN CONCLUSIONS.

4. ON SUBJECT OF BANGLADESH, BHUTTO RECALLED THAT

BENGALEES USED TO COMPLAIN THAT THEY WERE BEING EXPLOITED BY WEST PAKISTANIS. HE WONDERED WHY THEY WERE STILL IN "MISERABLE" CONDITION NOW THAT "PUNJABIS" NO LONGER RULED OVER THEM. HE ALSO TOOK ANOTHER POKE AT OPPOSITION FOR HAVING OPPOSED RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH, SAYING THAT TO ADMIT TO REALITY WAS IN PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL INTEREST.

5. OPPOSITION UDF LEADERS, IN ANTICIPATION OF BHUTTO TOUR, BEGAN HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS IN MULTAN ON NOV 1. PRESENTLY ON HAND ARE NAP LEADER WALI KHAN, JUI LEADER MAULANA MUFTI MAHMOOD FROM PESHAWAR, AND TOP BRASS OF OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES INCLUDING JI, JUP, PJP, AND PML. OUR CONTACTS SAY ORIGINAL UDF PLAN WAS TO HOLD MEETINGS IN SAME LOCATIONS AS BHUTTO (EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER PM) IN EFFORT TO HARRASS HIM DURING TOUR. HOWEVER, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE IMPOSED BANS ON PUBLIC MEETINGS WHEN UDF HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO MEET AND NEWS OF UDF ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN BLACKED OUT OF LOCAL PRESS FOR PAST TWO DAYS. (NEWS THAT APPEARED THROUGH NOV 3 INDICATED THAT UDF LEADERS WERE BEING EXTREMELY CAREFUL TO AVOID ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED AS SEDITIONOUS OR UNPATRIOTIC.)

6. COMMENT: MOST LAHORE OBSERVERS BELIEVE PRIME MINISTER DECIDED TO BEGIN PUNJAB TOUR AT PRESENT TIME IN ORDER TO CAPITALIZE ON NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DECISION ON AHMADIYA QUESTION, WHICH WAS ENORMOUSLY POPULAR IN PUNJAB. HE COULD HAVE SPOKE IN BAHAWALNAGAR (A BACKWATER OF THIS PROVINCE) ON THAT SUBJECT, OR HE COULD HAVE MET PERVASIVE ECONOMIC QUESTIONS HEAD-ON, BUT IT IS NOT REALLY STRANGE THAT PM CHOSE TO EMPHASIZE FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC ADDRESS. HE IS RUMORED TO FIND AHMADIYA QUESTION DISTASTEFUL AND PROBLEMS ON ECONOMIC SIDE ARE NOT EASY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO SOLVE OR TO TALK AWAY. THEREFORE, WE EXPECT HE WILL TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF PUNJABI PENCHANT FOR SUPPORTING NATIONAL LEADERS WHO CAN DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCE IN HANDLING PAKISTAN'S EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

7. EMBASSY ISLAMABAD MAY HAVE FURTHER COMMENT.
GRIFFIN

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